

Shrewsbury, May 30, 1796.

# THE SPEECHES

Of Andrew Corbet, Esq; The Rev. Francis Leighton; and John Hill, Esq;  
Delivered at the HUSTINGS, This Day.

ANDREW CORBET, Esq.

GENTLEMEN,

AS a Burgess of this ancient and respectable Town, I beg leave to propose Mr. JOHN HILL (one of your late worthy Representatives), as a Candidate for your future favors, who, from his long and faithful Services in Parliament, may I trust, be allowed to have a well-founded claim to your present Protection and Support.

The Rev. FRANCIS LEIGHTON.

GENTLEMEN,

WITH full Confidence of the Approbation of the great Body of Electors, I rise to express my hearty concurrence with the sentiments of the respectable Gentleman who has just spoken. If ever a period occurred in the history of this country, in which Senators of inflexible attachment to our glorious Constitution were required, the present conjuncture most loudly and emphatically demands them. This attachment will doubtless be professed by the honourable Candidate, who now for the first time solicits your suffrages; and none will doubt the sincerity of his professions: I myself shall give full and unlimited credit to them. But times like *these* demand men of *known*, of *tried* and *approved* integrity, firmness and patriotism: And if the services of men of this description are offered to any County, City or Borough, fortunate indeed are the Electors, if they know their own happiness; and something worse than insanity would be imputable to them, should they change such a Representative for one who is untried, and in some material respects unknown to them.

I need not inform this company, that these important qualifications are eminently conspicuous in both our late worthy Delegates. The truly honourable Baronet who for two and twenty years, with equal honour to himself, and to us, has represented this Borough; enjoys a peculiar and pre-eminent advantage. Fortune presented to him in a former contest, an opportunity of restoring and establishing the rights of a great body of Electors. With equal spirit and ability he availed himself, or rather his Constituents, of the glorious occasion; and thus for ever secured to them a most important Privilege, and to himself their Hearts and their Suffrages.

The praise of upright and independent conduct in Parliament belongs equally to him, and to your other late worthy representative Mr. John Hill, during the long space of time in which they have faithfully served you. The latter Gentleman now comes forward for the third time to ask the honour of your Suffrages. He has no need to remind you, that on every possible occasion, he has been attentive to the Interests of his Constituents, and of the Country at large; and that neither his Judgment nor his Vote ~~has been biased, even by that Person, whom it might naturally have been expected, that affection, esteem, and interest united, would induce him to consult and to support.~~

I may justly affirm of him, that his Conduct throughout the whole of this unfortunate Contest, has been strictly honourable, as well as respectful to the Electors. As the Peace of the Borough was not disturbed by him in the first instance, so neither has the restoration of that Peace been prevented by any Obstinacy on his Part. He manifested (and it is but Justice to add that his Opponent manifested likewise) the utmost Chearfulness in assenting to Conciliatory Proposals, made by an impartial and respectable Gentleman. Those Proposals were rejected in the Committee of his Opponent: and *they* proposed that the Rivals should agree to divide the Term of the approaching Parliament.— This was declined by Mr. John Hill, as dishonourable to himself, and disrespectful to his Constituents. Yet, so ardent was his desire for the Tranquillity of the Town, and so fearful was he lest so desirable an object should be lost through any Scruple of his, that he afterwards declared himself ready to treat even on those terms, if any three Gentlemen of Impartiality, Honour, Judgment, and Parliamentary Experience, to whom the Matter might be referred, should be of Opinion that he could do so consistently with his own Honour and that of the Borough. The Friends of his Rival (perhaps *wisely*) disapproved of such Reference: and they also rejected other very liberal Conditions of Reconciliation which had been proposed on the part of Mr. John Hill: it is therefore difficult to conceive what more could be done by him to restore that Peace in the Borough which had been interrupted by his Opponents. Many false Insinuations have been thrown out in certain Anonymous Publications, against his Conduct both in Parliament, and in the present Contest: but as they neither have been nor can be proved, so I may almost affirm that they have never been believed, even by the Authors of those infamous Writings.

I have only to add, that if we recollect that we come hither not only to exercise the right, but to practice the duty of Electors, and that this duty is neither to suffer ourselves to be influenced by party prejudice, by fear, or by self-interest, nor to attempt to influence others by such motives, I have no doubt that Sir WILLIAM PULTENEY, and Mr. JOHN HILL, will, during the approaching Parliament, be again entrusted with that sacred deposit, which they so faithfully watched over, through all the vicissitudes of the last; the deposit of our Liberties, our Property, and all the inestimable Blessings which flow from under a free Constitution, and a beneficent Government, administered by a just and gracious Ruler.

JOHN HILL, Esq.

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IN addressing myself as a Candidate for your Favour and Support, I am sensible that I am indebted to what the partiality and kindness of my good Friends have induced them to



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JOHN HILL, Esq.

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IN addressing myself as a Candidate for your Favour and Support, I have very little to add to what the partiality and kindness of my good Friends have induced them to offer you in my behalf.

What my conduct is likely to be, should I be honoured with your choice, you are not to learn from my professions. You have the pledge and evidence of what my conduct hitherto has been, both as a public and a private Man. In the course of the two long and important Parliaments, in which I have had the great honour of representing you, I hope I have succeeded in my endeavours to serve you and my Country faithfully. At my time of life I shall hardly be suspected of any intention to deviate from the Principles and Line of Conduct I have hitherto observed. To splendid talents or abilities, I am conscious I have no claim; but I trust I may, without presumption, appeal to my Parliamentary and private Character, as a Test, of the Diligence, Fidelity, and Integrity, with which I have invariably watched over, and as far as lay in my power promoted the welfare of my Country and the Interest of my Constituents. Conscious, therefore, of having honestly endeavored to merit the continuance of your Favor and Support, I have no apprehensions of your withdrawing them from me; and the flattering Reception I have hitherto met with, leads me to look forward to the Event of This Day, with the greatest Confidence.

I require only from you, the same Firmness and Zeal, in the Support of my Interests, which I have uniformly studied to exert in the Support of your's; and I have not a doubt but you will on the present occasion stand my Friends, because I feel the Conviction of my having always been your's.